

Transcript, Part Two

[Two Sisters, ages eight and ten]

Auctioneer: This is the way we're going to sell these two: the high bidder gets his choice. You can take one, or two for two times the money. We're going to sell them, if the high bidder takes only one, then I'm going to sell the other one, that's the way we're going to do it. Now here you go. Take your time, look 'em over good. Look 'em over good, they're young and they can be trained. How about 300 bid and go....

[Bidding begins]

Auctioneer [continues]: I got three, how 'bout three and a half

[bidding continues]

Auctioneer [continues]: I got three seventy-five... I got four hundred, I thank you sir

[bidding continues]

Auctioneer: You can buy one now, two for two times the money.. I got four seventy-five [bidding continues]

Auctioneer: I have five... Do I have five and a quarter... I got your five, sir, I got your five. How about five and a quarter? I got five thirty-five, now I got five forty-five, I got five-fifty...

[bidding continues]

Auctioneer: Sold! You want 'em both? You want 'em both? He takes 'em both. Two times the money on 'em, two times the money. Five fifty times two.

[on the sidewalk and street of the Old Courthouse]

[Auctioneer is heard in background as he continues selling other slaves]

Slave Handler: Get in there! Get in there!

Female Slave: No sir, no sir, no sir, no, no sir, I want to stay with my master! No sir, no sir, no...no....Help me Lord, help me Lord!

Slave Handler: Get in there! Get in there! Come on, now, get up in there!

[cries and wails of slaves]

[after the auction on the steps, the event concluded with a discussion inside the Old Courthouse]

Female Reenactor: This re-enactment was a stress for me. I usually play the part of Mary Meachum which was a free slave. So this was, I had to pray about this, but like Angela said, if we don't tell our story, who is going to tell it? So I was glad to be chosen to be a part of this re-enactment.

Angela da Silva: One of our slaves, Phil, would like to give his perspective on why he did it, why the re-enactors did it.

Male Re-enactor: "I's free! I's free! And Lord, Lord, Lord, I remember though when I had the meanest overseer the devil ever made." Those are some words from one of our reenactments. For me and the rest of the cast this is not a reenactment. We are part of living history and that's why we're out here, because we bring the history right from the book. And that's what it's all about. Because if we don't. As Angela said, if we don't tell our own story, who will? And so we are out there today. It didn't take long before I felt, and the rest of the cast felt, and some of you felt that we were back in the 1800s, bringing it to life. And if we don't, who will? That's why I do it, because I know my young people that are coming behind me, I know they need to know it just like I need to know it.

Audience Member: I just wanted to say thank you, because I feel out of reverence and respect for those who died and those who survived, for our present and for our future, we must be educated and we can not forget, so thank you.

[Applause]